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Analysis of Seasonal Migration of Tribal People: A Case Study of Nashik District, Maharashtra

Mr. Nilesh Gulab Chaure

Assistant Professor in Geography M.S.G. College Malegaon

Dr. Priya Kanojia

Assistant Professor Department of Geography S.P.P.U.

Abstract:

Seasonal migration is one of the major livelihood strategies adopted by tribal communities in many parts of India. It reflects the socio-economic challenges faced by marginalized populations living in geographically isolated and economically underdeveloped regions. The present study examines the pattern, causes, and consequences of seasonal migration among tribal populations in Nashik district of Maharashtra. Nashik district has a significant tribal population, particularly in talukas such as Peth, Surgana, Kalwan, Baglan, Trimbakeshwar, and Dindori. Due to geographical constraints, limited agricultural productivity, lack of irrigation facilities, and absence of local employment opportunities, a large proportion of tribal households migrate seasonally to nearby urban and agriculturally developed areas in search of work.The study is primarily based on secondary data obtained from the District Census Handbook (2011), government reports, and publications of organizations working in tribal development. The analysis focuses on selected villages in the Peth and Trimbakeshwar blocks of Nashik district. The findings indicate that more than half of the tribal population in these areas participates in seasonal migration. Migration generally occurs during summer and winter seasons and is closely linked to agricultural labour demand in surrounding Tahsil. The study also highlights the major challenges faced by migrant tribal workers, including inadequate housing, lack of sanitation facilities, unsafe working conditions, low wages, and educational disruption among migrant children. Although several government initiatives such as skill development programs, tribal welfare schemes, and employment programs have been implemented, seasonal migration continues to remain a crucial livelihood strategy for many tribal households.The paper concludes that seasonal migration among tribal communities is largely driven by economic necessity and structural inequalities in regional development. Addressing this issue requires integrated policies focusing on rural employment generation, agricultural development, improved infrastructure, and enhanced access to education and healthcare in tribal regions.

Introduction:

Migration is an important demographic and socio-economic phenomenon that reflects spatial inequalities in economic development and livelihood opportunities. It refers to the movement of people from one place to another either permanently or temporarily in search of better living conditions, employment, education, or security. Among different types of migration, seasonal migration plays a crucial role in the livelihood strategies of rural and tribal populations. Seasonal migration is a type of migration. In this, a person migrates from his native place (place of origin) to another place for a specific period. There can be various reasons for seasonal migration. Like employment, natural disaster, low income, education, etc. The duration of seasonal migration can be from 1-6 months to 2 years. According to the 2011 census, the total population of Nashik district is 61 lakhs. Out of this 15.64 lakh population is tribal population i.e. 25.60% of the total population belongs to tribal people. Kalwan, Baglan, Peth, Surgana, Trambakeshwar, Dindori are tribal dominated. Kalwan Baglan Suranga Peth taluka in Nashik district as most of the area is hilly. Due to lack of suitable agricultural land, lack of irrigation facilities, irregular rainfall, the income sources are very low in this area. Therefore, people are migrate on a large scale to earn their livelihood.

Objective:

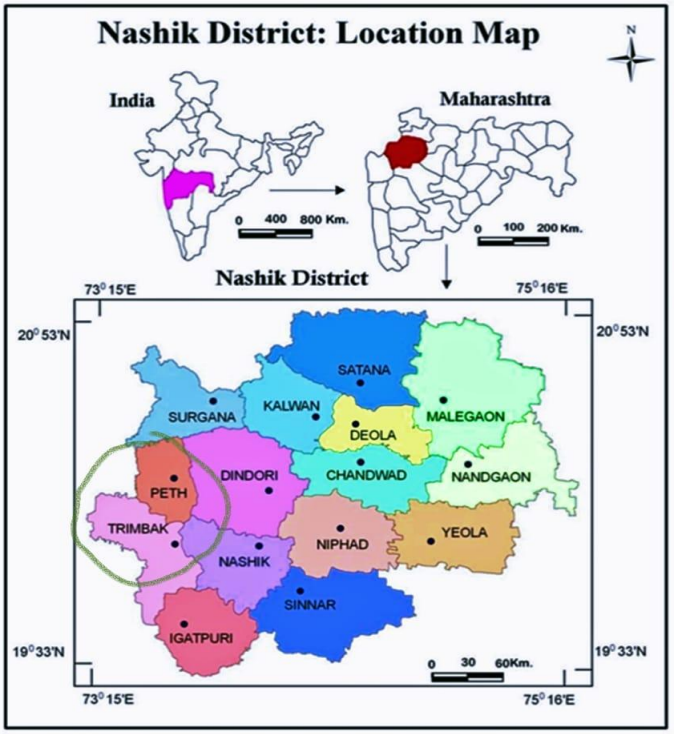
1. To analysis Seasonal migration treads of Migration of tribal.
2. To study the seasonal tribal migration.
3. To understand between migration and factors.

Review of Literature:

Several studies have examined migration patterns among rural and tribal populations in India. Migration is often considered a livelihood strategy adopted by households to cope with economic distress, unemployment, and environmental challenges. Research on tribal migration has shown that geographical isolation, landlessness, poverty, and lack of employment opportunities are the major factors contributing to seasonal migration. Tribal communities often depend on rain-fed agriculture and forest resources, which provide limited income throughout the year. As a result, migration becomes an important means of supplementing household income. Studies conducted in Maharashtra Nashik District have found that tribal households frequently migrate to nearby agricultural (High Develop Agriculture region) and urban regions during harvesting seasons. Migrant workers are typically employed as agricultural labourers in activities such as harvesting, planting, and processing of crops. In some cases, they also work in construction, brick kilns, and small industries. Another important issue highlighted in the literature is the vulnerability of migrant workers. Migrant tribal laborers often face problems such as poor housing conditions, lack of sanitation facilities, exploitation by employers, irregular wages, and limited access to healthcare and education.

Study Area:

The study area is in Nashik district {A study area is Nashik district and peth,trimbak block (talshil). Village Kumbale , Jale, Kapurne , kayre, Malegaon, Hatrundi, Pauchibari, Kopurli Ozerkhed, Gaddavane, Adgaon, Bhotmokhada, Goldari, Murambi, Nandgaon, Thanapada. Triimbak} of Maharashtra, which is situated in the northwestern part of the state. Nashik district is known for its agricultural productivity, particularly in crops such as grapes, onions, and vegetables. However, certain parts of the district are characterized by hilly terrain and tribal settlements.



Methodology:

The study based on secondary data. All the analysis is best on various records like research paper, government migration records. This study had a mixed methods approach literature review, secondary data analysis and quantitative view to understand depth about tribal livelihood migration situation. Secondary data was accessed from the census, National Sample Survey, other surveys (NGO'S reports) done by national and state both the government (semi-gov). Selection of the region have been done on the basis of high density of tribal population.

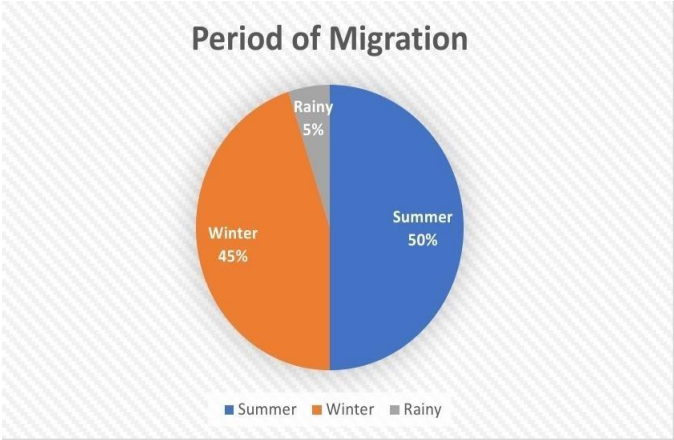
Tibal Migration Scenario:

- According to census 2011, 15.64 lakh tribal population more than 55% people migrated
- Located to remotes area like northern part of Nashik district.
- Reasons of migration No local income, Landless farmers, Poverty, low daily wage, Insufficient land.
- Peth, Surgana, and western part of Baglan almost 80% families migrate in Summer and winter season.
- Most of the tribal families migrate to nearby developed towns such as Nashik, Pimplegaon, Dindori, Lasalgaon, Niphad.

Structure of migration (Season wise):

Summer- Grapes harvesting, bajara harvesting, harvesting onions, onion market worker

- Winter-harvesting cotton, maize, millet, sorghum, rice, tur, soyabean.
- Rainy



Push and Pull Factors:

Push	Pull
1 Geographical condition, Hilly area 2. Lack of agricultural land 3. Lack of water facilities 4. No local income 5. Irregular rainfall	1. Location of primary and Secondary sector 2. High agriculture system near Tehsil 3. Urban area 4. Demand for labour

District	Block	Villlage	Population	% of Migration
Nashik	Peth	Kumbale	942	97%
		Jale	569	91%
		Kampurne	577	88%
		Kayre	534	92%
		Malegaon	1037	81%
		Hatrundi	519	97%
		Pauchibari	955	69%
		Kopurli	1304	78%
	Trimbak	Ozarkhed	1684	88%
		Gaddavane	269	55%
		Adgaon	327	79%
		Bhutmokhada	938	82%
		Goldari	1056	92%
		Murabi	955	85%
		Nandgaon	1223	89%
		Thanapada	1164	35%

Income from Migration Daily Wages

Income Rs. (daily wages)	% Earners
100	8.2%
150	59%
200	28%
300	5%
400	0.2%

Preferred Destination:

Destination	Migrant preference
Nashik	66%
Dindori	21%
Girnare	5%
Niphad	5%
Thane	2%
Sinner	0.75%

Major Concerns:

Housing- there is no proper accommodation, migrates live open spaces or very crowded room. Stay in rented rooms in slum area. Mostly each room has about 6-7 migrants. There is no facility for potable water, proper sanitation, medical care.
Safety- concerns- some of the migrants also pointed out, that frequency of accidents at workplace is more, not proper security in workplace,

Political and social exclusion:

Wage-
Children Education-Children are also migrating with families; hence school dropout rate is very high.

State Initiatives:

* Tribal Migration Research and Resource Centre
* Grievance Handling Cell
* Skill Development Program in Maharashtra for Aadivashi Youth
* Education Program-Residential school in tribal area. (Aashram Shala, EMRS, Hostel facilities for District and Sub-division level)
* Promote local products, MNREGA, Bhonga shala

Conclusion:

Tribal seasonal remittance migration is a complex phenomenon with significant social, economic, and cultural implications. It forms a crucial part of the livelihood strategies of tribal communities in the study area. The major reasons for seasonal migration include lack of local income opportunities, difficult geographical conditions, landlessness, small and fragmented landholdings, and widespread poverty. However, the most important driving factor is the need for financial survival. A large proportion of the population migrates for about 8–10 months in a year in search of livelihood due to the absence of local employment opportunities and underdeveloped agricultural conditions. The income earned through migration, in the form of remittances, plays a vital role in sustaining rural households. These remittances are utilized at the village level for improving agriculture, supporting education, meeting healthcare needs, and fulfilling social and cultural activities. Most migrants move towards nearby urban areas and regions with highly developed agriculture and agro-based markets, where employment opportunities are relatively better.

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